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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/408,437	09/29/1999	TAKASHI TAKAHASHI	2271/60102	4050

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2828

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/408,437

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI, TAKASHI

Examiner

Armando Rodriguez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.


- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 13-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 13-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-6 and 13-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 6 recites an intended use. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: nitrogen.

Regarding claims 3 and 15,

Applicant recites the use of nitrogen within the composition of the saturable absorbing layer in independent claims 13 and 19, but dependent claims 3 and 15 recite the composition of the saturable absorbing layer without nitrogen, thereby it is not clear if the saturable absorbing includes the element of nitrogen.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-6 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura (PN 6,456,640) in view of Tomomura (WO 9844539) and Ovshinsky (PN 4,713,493).

Regarding claims 3,4,6,13,15,16,18,19 and 20,

Okumura illustrates in figure 12 a conventional self-pulsating laser device having a substrate (221), a cladding layer (223), an active layer (224), a cladding layer (225) and a saturable absorber layer (226) made of InGaN, as described in column 1 lines 53-63.

Okumura does not disclose adding another group V element to the saturable absorbing layer and is silent as to the bandgap.

Tomomura discloses a group III-V semiconductor compound containing Nitrogen (N) and another group V element. Column 1 lines 25-40 disclose the combination of a compound having N and another group V element lends itself to a controlled lattice constant and energy bandgap; line 31 discloses the combination of N with As.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the saturable absorber layer of Okumura

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with another group V element, as taught by Tomomura because it will provide control of the energy bandgap.

Furthermore, nitrogen is well known in the art as an element used in semiconductor layers for adjusting the bandgap, see column 11 lines 32-44 of Ovshinsky.

Regarding claim 2,14,

Tomomura discloses the combination of N with As for a controllable bandgap semiconductor layer; thereby such combination would have been obvious.

Regarding claims 5,17,21,

Tomomura discloses, in column 5 lines 11-30, a semiconductor structure which combines cladding layers not having N with layers having N, therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to design a semiconductor structure having the combination of layers of group III-V elements, which involve N cladding layers without N and layers which include N.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Armando Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-6218. The examiner can normally be reached on 10-hour day / M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-4881.



Armando Rodriguez
Examiner
Art Unit 2828



Paul Ip
Supervisor
Art Unit 2828

AR/PI